Application No. 10/586774
Responsive to the office action dated May 28, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) [[The]]A method of measuring a protein ~~according to claim 1~~in a liquid sample that also contains creatinine, the method comprising:

a step of mixing a quantity of the liquid sample with a protein measurement indicator to form a first liquid system in which the protein and the creatinine react with the protein measurement indicator;

a ~~first~~ step of obtaining a first response value ~~which~~ that reflects a protein concentration in the first liquid ~~sample~~system, based on coloring of the protein measurement indicator caused by a ~~system containing the liquid sample~~ reaction between the protein and the protein measurement indicator under influence of a reaction between the creatinine and the protein measurement indicator;

a step of preparing another quantity of the liquid sample as a second liquid system that does not contain the protein measurement indicator;

a ~~second~~ step of obtaining a second response value ~~which~~ that reflects a creatinine concentration in the second liquid ~~sample in a~~ system ~~containing the liquid sample but not containing the protein measurement indicator~~; and

a ~~third~~ step of calculating a protein concentration in the liquid sample, ~~based on~~ by using the first response value and ~~inconsideration of~~ the second response value, for eliminating a measurement error caused by the reaction between the creatinine and the protein measurement indicator in the first liquid system.

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 2, wherein the ~~second~~ step of obtaining the second response value includes calculation[[,]]

of an error level included in the first response value, which is caused by the reaction between the creatinine and the protein measurement indicator, ~~based on~~ by using the second response value~~, of an influence caused by the amount of creatinine on the first response value~~;

the ~~third~~ step of calculating the protein concentration includes ~~including~~ calculation of a non-corrected protein concentration as a preliminary value ~~based on~~ from the first response value, and calculation of a corrected final protein concentration by subtracting the ~~influence of the amount of creatinine~~ error level from the preliminary value.

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 3, wherein ~~the calculation~~ the error level in the ~~second~~ step of obtaining the ~~creatinine influence~~ second response value is calculated ~~based on~~ by using a predetermined calibration curve;

the calibration curve being prepared in advance by measuring, in accordance with a dye binding method or a protein error method, response values with a plurality of known liquid samples each ~~having~~ including protein of an identical ~~protein~~ concentration ~~with but~~ and creatinine of a different ~~creatinine~~ concentration from that of all other known liquid samples, and then obtaining ~~correlating~~ correlation between the response values and ~~with~~ the creatinine concentrations.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 2, wherein in the ~~third~~ step of calculating the protein concentration in the liquid sample, a corrected response value of the first response value is obtained ~~by correcting the first response value based on~~ by using the measured first response value and the second response value[[s]], and the protein concentration in the liquid sample is calculated ~~based on~~ by using the corrected response value.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 5, wherein the corrected response value is calculated by using an arithmetic expression derived from a plurality of sample groups;

each group consisting of a plurality of known liquid samples ~~having~~ including protein of an identical ~~protein~~ concentration and ~~but~~ creatinine of a different ~~creatinine~~ concentration from that of all other known liquid samples,

the sample groups ~~having~~ including protein of different ~~protein~~ concentrations each other~~, respectively~~, and

the arithmetic expression being derived from a method including:

a step of measuring a response value for each of the known liquid samples in each sample group;

a step of obtaining a relationship between the response values obtained from the known liquid samples and the creatinine concentrations in each sample group[[,]] as ~~a plurality of~~ relational expression[[s]] for all of the sample groups in ~~the~~ a form of linear expression; and

a step of obtaining a relationship between a gradient in each of the relational expressions and the response value from the known liquid sample having a specific ~~eratinine~~creatinine concentration in each sample group, in the form of relational expression.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 2, wherein ~~the measurement of~~ the first response value ~~in the first step~~ is ~~made~~ obtained in accordance with a first protein measurement procedure provided by a dye binding method or a protein error method.

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 2, wherein ~~the measurement of~~ the second response value ~~in the second step~~ is ~~made~~ obtained in accordance with an enzyme method, Jaffe method, a copper chelate oxidation method, a palladium complex competition method, or Benedict method.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 7, wherein in the step of calculating the protein concentration, the protein concentration is ~~calculation in the third step is~~ calculated ~~based on~~ by using a predetermined calibration curve[[,]]:

the calibration curve being made in advance by a method including:

a step of obtaining a plurality of responses ~~for the respective~~ from a plurality of known liquid samples ~~based on~~ by the first protein measurement procedure; and

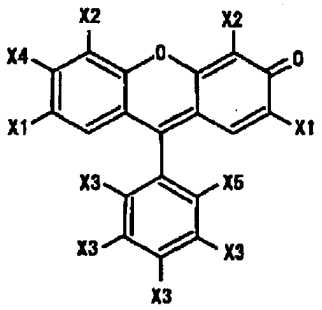
a step of measuring a plurality of protein ~~concentration~~ concentrations in the known liquid samples ~~based on~~ by a second protein measurement procedure, which is less susceptible to creatinine influence than the first protein measurement procedure; ~~and a step of relating~~ the calibration curve representing relation between the responses obtained by the first protein measurement procedure and ~~to~~ the protein concentrations measured by the second protein measurement procedure.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 9, wherein the second protein measurement procedure ~~is provided by~~ comprises an immunoturbidimetric method, immunolatex agglutination method or ternary complex method.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 7, wherein the protein measurement indicator is ~~provided by~~ a xanthene dye or a triphenylmethane dye.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 11, wherein the xanthene dye is a halogenated xanthene dye ~~which~~ that has a chemical structure expressed in ~~the~~ following Chemical Formula 1;

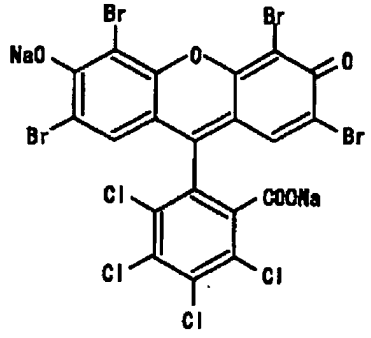
Chemical Formula 1



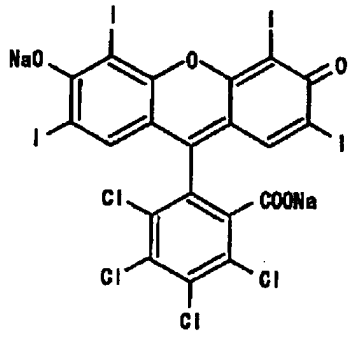
~~(In~~wherein in Chemical Formula 1, X1 represents a halogen, a nitro group or a nitroso group, X2 represents a halogen, X3 represents a halogen or hydrogen, X4 represents a hydroxyl group or its salt, and X5 represents a carboxyl group or its salt[[.]]~~)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 12, wherein the halogenated xanthene dye has a chemical structure represented by a formula selected ~~one of the~~ from following Chemical formulas 2 through 6:

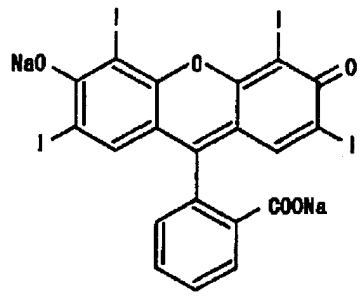
Chemical Formula 2



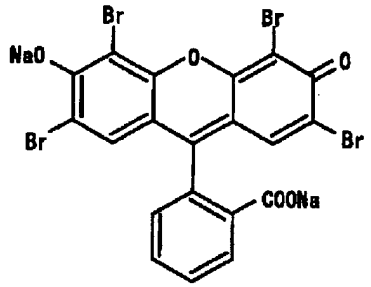
Chemical Formula 3



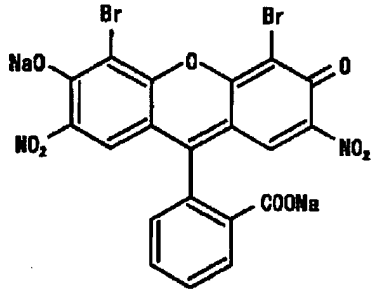
Chemical Formula 4



Chemical Formula 5



Chemical Formula 6



14. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim 11, wherein the triphenylmethane dye is ~~provided by~~ Tetrabromophenol Blue (TBPB), Bromochlorophenol Blue (BCPB) or Bromophenol Blue (BPB).

15. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim [[1]]2, wherein the protein measurement indicator is ~~carried by~~ held in a carrier in a dried form ~~before~~ until being exposed to the liquid sample.

16. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim [[1]]2, wherein the protein is ~~provided by~~ albumin.

17. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of measuring a protein~~ according to claim [[1]]2, wherein the liquid sample is ~~provided by~~ urine, blood, or cerebrospinal fluid.